Water Efficiency & WaterSense

Water efficiency means using improved technologies and practices that deliver equal or better service with less water.

EPA WaterSense

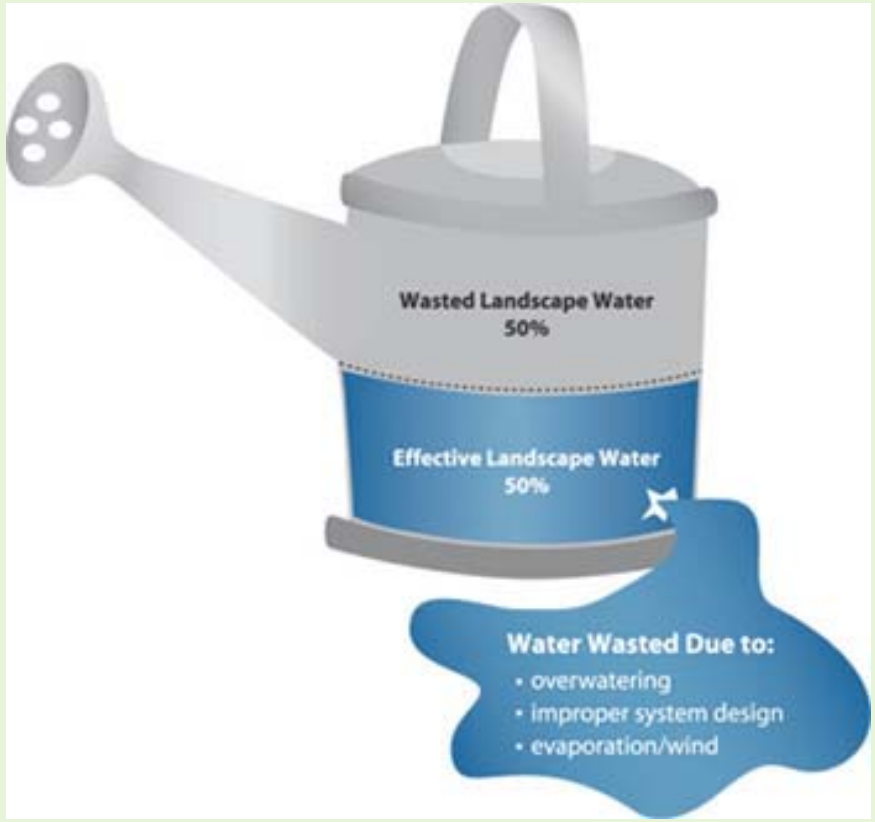
A National Brand For Local Results

A Thirsty Nation

- Between 1950 and 2000, U.S. population doubled while the demand on public supply systems more than tripled.
- At least 36 states are anticipating water shortages by 2013.
- To save water for future generations, we need to use water more efficiently.

Inefficient Water Use

- Approximately 5% to 10% of American homes have water leaks that drip away 90 gallons a day or more.
- Older toilets are 60% less efficient than today's high-efficiency toilets.
- Up to 50% of landscape watering is wasted.



Find That Leak…..And Fix It!

A leaky toilet can waste about 200 gallons of water every day, and leaky faucets that drip at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons of water each year

Solution:

•Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you probably have a leak.

•Another indication of a leak is a high bill compared to past use or compared to how much water your neighbors may be using.

•Toilets: To tell if your toilet has a leak, place a drop of food coloring in the tank; if the color shows in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak.

Don’t Flush Money Down the Drain

- Toilets before 1992 use about 3.5 gallons per flush
- From 1992-present, many toilets use at least 1.6 gallons per flush
- New and improved high-efficiency toilets (HETs) use less than 1.3 gallons per flush

Solution:

Along with saving water, a WaterSense labeled HET toilet can save a family of four more than $90 annually on their water bill, and $2,000 over the lifetime of the toilet as compared to a 3.5 gallons per flush toilet.

Low-Flow Shower Heads and Aerators

Inexpensive and simple to install, low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators can reduce your home water consumption as much as 50%, and reduce your energy cost of heating the water also by as much as 50%.

What to Look For:

•Faucet: Aerators for faucets have their rated flow imprinted on the side. This should read 2.75 gpm (gallons per minute) or lower.
• Shower Head: Before 1992, some showerheads had flow rates of 5.5 gpm. Low-flow shower heads should read 2.5 gpm or less.

Water Savings = Energy Savings

Electricity or gas are often used to heat water, and this costs you money.

It's A Fact!

If one out of 100 American homes switched to water-efficient fixtures such as faucets,100 million kWh of electricity would be saved per year.

•That would avoid 80,000 tons in greenhouse gas emissions and be the equivalent of removing 15,000 cars from the road each year.

Energy-Efficient Dishwashers and Clothes Washers

The biggest cost of washing dishes and clothes comes from the energy required to heat the water. You'll significantly reduce your energy costs if you purchase and use an energy-efficient dishwasher and clothes washer.

It's A Fact!

Inefficient clothes washers can cost three times as much to operate than energy-efficient ones.

Running your washing machine and dishwasher only when they are full could save 1000 gallons of water each month.

Easy Solutions

The average bathroom faucet flows at a rate of two gallons per minute.

Solution:

Turning off the tap while brushing your teeth in the morning and at bedtime can save up to 8 gallons of water per day, which equals 240 gallons a month!

A full bath tub requires about 70 gallons of water, while taking a five-minute shower uses 10 to 25 gallons.

Solution:

If you take a bath, stopper the drain immediately and adjust the temperature as you fill the tub.

Outdoor Water Use

More than 50 percent of landscape water used goes to waste due to evaporation or runoff caused by over watering. Landscape irrigation wastes water—up to 1.5 billion gallons every day across the country.

It's a Fact!

WaterSense irrigation partners can help you reduce your water consumption, save money, and maintain a healthy and beautiful landscape.
Visit www.epa.gov/watersense/pp/irrprof.htm

Savings In Action

A 100-guestroom property with 75 percent occupancy will save an estimated $25,000 per year through a linen and towel reuse program. These cost savings are derived from an 81,000-gallon reduction in water consumption plus a 540-gallon reduction in detergent. *John Stanley, Project Planet*

At USC, this conservation initiative will reduce water consumption in residence hall laundry rooms by more than 2 million gallons per year (nearly a 30 percent reduction). The reduced water and energy consumption together is projected to save $20,000 per year.

At NC State, the capital cost of ten water efficiency projects was $264,000 and resulted in over 9,983,400 gallons of water saved per year. The projects will pay for themselves in approximately six years. Assuming the water rates increase 10 percent per year as proposed by the City of Raleigh, the payback period reduces to five years.

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